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Schiebel UAS passes French flight tests

Schiebel Industries' Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), the Camcopter S-100, has successfully completed a series of trials for the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA).

Operated by DGA personnel, the Camcopter flew more than 50 missions under various conditions, day and night, with a total of 150 flight hours. Challenges it faced included flying in hot and dry desert conditions and inclement weather, and negotiating a maritime coastal environment and an urban environment.

The Thales Optronique Agile 2 Electro Optical and Infra Red (EO/IR) sensor was used as the main payload for these trials. Test scenarios included capturing simulated pirate attacks by small boats, tracking drug smuggling activities and stand-off surveillance and distance tracking of ship.

A team consisting of Schiebel, Thales Aerospace, Thales Optronique and DCNS is in the process of responding to a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the French DGA for the procurement of a VTOL UAV to fly from the French Navy Lafayette Class Frigates in 2011.